News print prices in India

1130. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the news print prices in India are the highest in the world;

(b) how do they compare with prices in other top ten countries;

(c) how do they compare with those of the imported news prints, before landing; and

(d) how do the rising prices of newspapers affect the 'freedom to know' of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The figures of selling prices of newsprint to the newspapers in different countries of the world are not available. Hence no comparison is possible between the newsprint prices in India and other countries.

(c) Newsprint is imported from various sources, e.g., USSR, GDR, Romania, Bangladesh, Canada, Newzealand, Scandinavian countries, etc. The weighted average cost of imported Standard Newsprint before landing (C.I.F.) for January-March 1988 quarter is Rs. 7,225/- per tonne. The ex-factory prices of indigenous newsprint mills range between Rs. 8,560 and Rs. 10,893 per tonne.

(d) The rise in price of newspapers is not likely to affect adversely the freedom to know of the people.

Production and export of watches

1131. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of watches in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether there has been an increase or decrease in the production of watches during these years; and

(c) the number of watches exported to foreign countries alongwith the names of such countries and what is the earnings of foreign exchange on this account during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) Statement is attached.

Statement

(a) The production of watches in the organised sector as reported to DGTD during the last three Calendar years was as under:

Year	Quantity in Nos.
1985	53 lakhs
1986	67 lakhs
1987	77 lakhs

(b) There has been increase in the production of watches.

(c) Extracts from the statistics of foreign trade giving the details of export of watches during the year 1984-85 and 1985-86 are given below. Data for later years is not available.